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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 29, 2003**

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# **CITIZEN OF MEXICO CHARGED WITH STRUCTURING TRANSACTIONS TO EVADE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on April 25, 2003, a federal magistrate at Tucson, Arizona, signed an Arrest Warrant and Detention Order upon a Criminal Complaint against Eduardo Santos Acosta-Michel, Date of Birth October 13, 1945, of Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico.

The Complaint alleges that from or about April 1, 2002 and continuing through October, 2002, in the District of Arizona, Eduardo Santos Acosta-Michel did knowingly and willfully and for the purpose of evading the \$10,000 reporting requirements of section 5313(a) of Title 31, United States Code, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, structured, assisted in structuring and attempted to structure and assist in structuring transactions with Wells Fargo Bank, a domestic financial institution, and did so as a part of a pattern of illegal activity involving more than \$100,000 in a 12-month period. The defendant was arrested April 17, 2003, and held on other charges involving the importation of money into the United States, and is being held pending a detention hearing scheduled for April 28, 2003, on the structuring charges.

(MORE)

The Complaint charges Eduardo Santos Acosta-Michel with violating Title 31 of the United States Code, Sections 5324(a) (3) and 5322 (b).

A conviction for structuring more than \$100,000 in a 12-month period carries a maximum penalty of ten (10) years, a \$ 500,000 fine or both.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the filing of the complaint was conducted the United States Customs Service, Tucson, Arizona.

The prosecution is being handled by David Paul Flannigan, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: 03-3234M  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-071

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